United Nations E/AC.51/2006/L.4/Add.9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
30 August 2006

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-sixth session
14 August-8 September 2006
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 2
Political affairs

1. At its 7th meeting, on 21 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 2)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the work of the Department of Political Affairs carried out through its various subprogrammes and the good offices of the Secretary-General.

4. It was emphasized that more closely coordinated and peaceful preventive measures, including diplomatic efforts, were the most important tools for the maintenance of international peace and security. Support was expressed for activities focused on prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, as well as for post-conflict peacebuilding activities. The view was expressed that capacity for early warning and preventive actions, including the good offices role of the Secretary-General, were central to the work of the Department of Political Affairs. It

06-48343 (E) 010906

was pointed out that preventive diplomacy faced major challenges and required resources and innovative ideas. It was stressed that preventive measures were more cost-effective than peacekeeping operations in maintaining international peace and security.

5. Support was expressed for the important post-conflict peacebuilding activities, especially in countries coming out of conflict. It was observed that the positive results of the work of the regional organizations in relation to the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts was important and needed to be reflected in the biennial programme plan.

6. Appreciation and support were expressed for the important work carried out by the Department in promoting democracy and in providing electoral assistance, especially in countries where conflict situations had ended. It was emphasized that such work should be continued.

7. Support was expressed for the work carried out under subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, which was as important to the non-members of the Security Council as it was for the members of the Council. It was observed that it was necessary for the Department of Political Affairs to revisit the issues relating to the application of sanctions.

8. Views were expressed in support of the mandate of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as well as of the United Nations activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration. Views were expressed that the Special Committee was established by the General Assembly and that it must continue to carry out its functions as mandated by the Assembly until all the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories became independent. The view was also expressed that, as already indicated in the context of the review of mandates of the Organization requested in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 163 (b)), the Special Committee should be downsized or abolished.

9. Views were expressed in support of the activities carried out in relation to the question of Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Concern also was expressed on the current situation in the Middle East. It was pointed out that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established by the General Assembly and that it must carry out its mandate accordingly until the question of Palestine was resolved. It was also pointed out that efforts to increase the awareness of the international community and its related support were important in seeking a solution to the question of Palestine. It was observed that the activities of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division of Palestinian Rights were not balanced and did not contribute to the efforts of the Diplomatic Quartet on the Middle East and, in that regard, the view was expressed that the Committee and the Division should be abolished.

10. Support was expressed for the United Nations role with regard to the Middle East peace process carried out through the Office of the Special Coordinator.

11. It was indicated that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further improvement and refinement.

12. Clarification was sought on the access by the Department of Political Affairs to the Democracy Fund and the nature of its participation. The Committee was informed that an official from the Department of Political Affairs chaired the Project Review Committee.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modification:**

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace the text of expected accomplishment (b) with "Maintenance of peace processes on track".